

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action dated June 8, 2004, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire September 8, 2004.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 and/or 35 USC 103. Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 12 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as being allowable. Claims 15-22 are allowed.

In the present paper, Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 3, and Claim 3 is canceled. Accordingly, Claim 1 is now believed to be distinguished over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14 are dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1.

Reconsideration of the present patent application and withdrawal of all pending rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment to Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 2 and 4-22 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 451-5902.

Respectfully submitted,



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8/6/2004
Date

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